



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Ocala	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: WILLIAM DANIELS	
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http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

**FORMER OSCEOLA COUNTY SUNTRUST BANK BRANCH MANAGER
PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES**

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that Heather Harmony Espinel (33, Kissimmee) today pleaded guilty to embezzlement of federally insured funds by a bank employee. Espinel had been previously indicted by a federal grand jury on June 1, 2011. She faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison and a \$1,000,000 fine. A sentencing date has not been set.

According to the facts contained in her plea agreement, from about December 28, 2009, until February 16, 2010, Espinel knowingly embezzled federally insured funds entrusted to the care of SunTrust Bank. At the time of the thefts, Espinel served as the manager for the East St. Cloud branch of the bank in Osceola County. Espinel used her position at the bank to move approximately \$40,000 between customer accounts, in an attempt to conceal her illegal activity. Of that amount, she eventually stole at least \$14,985.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.